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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Pontoons Produced by the CKD Shipyards, Usti nad Labem	DATE DISTR.	18 February 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE. THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. In spring 1953, the CKD shipyard at Usti nad Labem introduced a two-shift day instead of the three-shift day it had previously worked. The reason for the change was a shortage of three-millimeter sheet steel for pontoons.

2. In the production of pontoons, the daily capacity of the yard is eight pontoons; on the three-shift system the plant produced 12 pontoons per day. Some of the pontoons produced are shipped to the USSR and China.

3. The sheet steel is pressed and welded together to form the bodies of the pontoons.

4. The pontoons are composed of three main sections: front, center and rear. Each section is 4 meters long, 2 meters wide at the top, 1.8 meters wide at the bottom and 1.2 meters high. The pontoons draw 15 centimeters of water when empty.

5. The front section can be used independently as a raft for transporting troops. The center section is closed and watertight. It is used only for building pontoon bridges--one section may be used for one-way traffic, while with two sections inserted it is possible to handle three traffic lanes. The rear section is similar to the front section and the front and rear sections can be joined for the purpose of transporting troops.

6. The letters in the following description of the parts of the pontoons correspond to those appearing on Annex (B).

   (a) Pin made of cast iron and screwed into the reinforced part of the bow with four screws. This pin is used in tying up the towrope or anchor cables.

   (b) Steel pipe welded to the sides of the pontoon and also used for tying up anchors and cables.

   (c) Edges of pontoon, made of pressed sheet steel.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

(d) Steel pipe running the length of the pontoon and welded to the sides at intervals. This is used as a hand grip for carrying the pontoon or in joining the pontoon sections together, when building bridges. For lashing the pontoons together, a heavy hemp rope is used of 1 cm. diameter.

(e) About 18 ribs made of pressed sheet steel. They are welded to the bottom of the pontoon and riveted to the sides.

(f) "Semi-segment", on both sides and on the bottom of the pontoon; this part contains the connecting hook.

(g) Pivot on the hook (See Annex (C), No. 1). This is a screw with two nuts fixed to the sides of the pontoon.

(h) Aperture used for attaching an outboard motor or for the rowlock of the leading oar.

(i) Connecting hook (See Annex (D). In a horizontal position, this hook is used to join the sections on the bottom of the pontoon. It is made of cast iron.

(j) Three apertures on each side of the pontoon for rowlocks.

7. The letters in the following description of the center section of the pontoon correspond to those on Annex (F).

(a) Two apertures on top; purpose unknown.

(b) Connecting eye.

(c) Connecting link.

(d) Pivot of the connecting hook.

(e) Semi-segment.

8. The front and rear sections of the pontoon are similar in construction and differ only in the method of connecting. On the front section, the connecting hook is fixed to the bottom of the pontoon and on top is the connecting tooth. The rear section is joined at the bottom by the connecting eye and on top by the connecting link.

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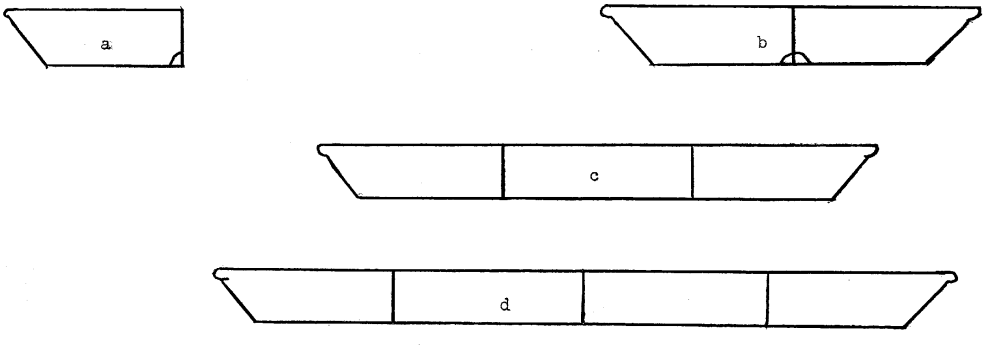
Methods of using the pontoon sections.



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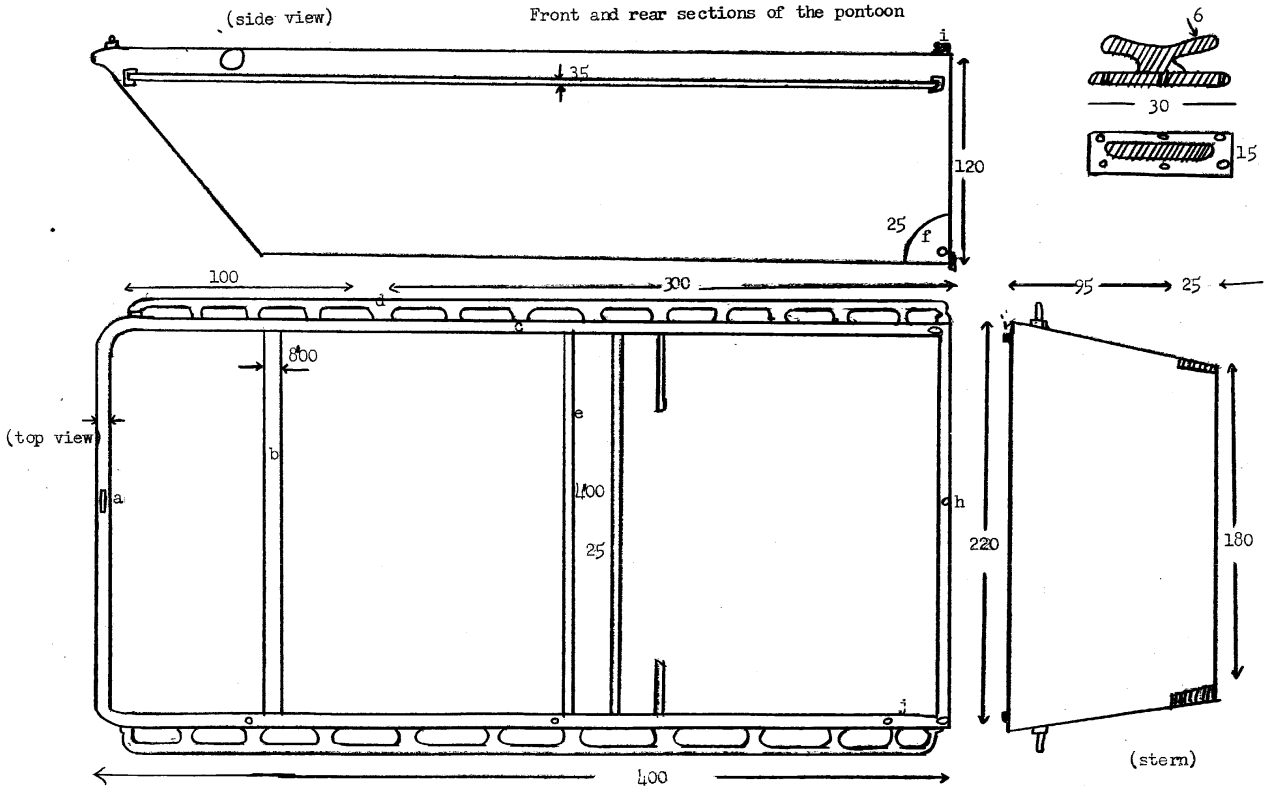
Annex (B)

Front and rear sections of the pontoon



Annex (C)

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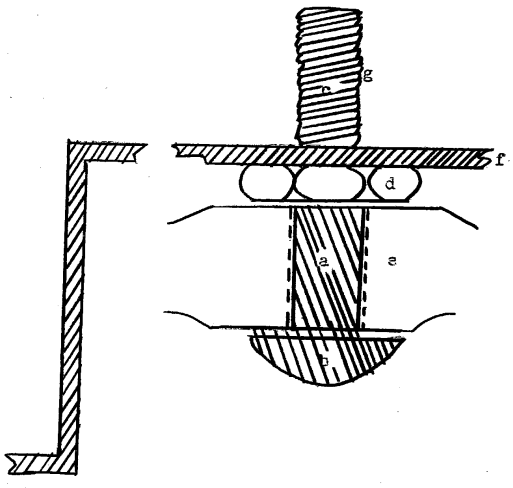
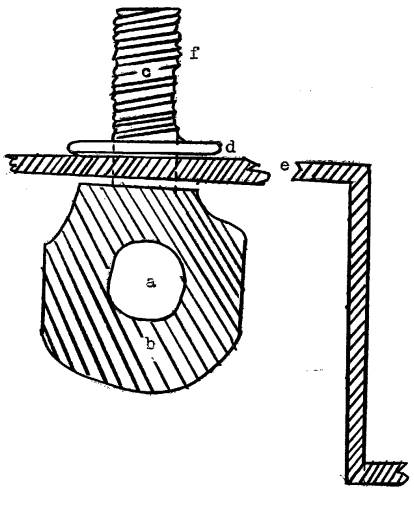
1. Pivot of connecting hook
   (a) Pivot
   (b) Pivot head
   (c) Screw thread
   (d) Screw nuts
   (e) Part of the connecting hook
   (f) Body of the pontoon
   (g) 2 screw-nuts

2. Connecting eye
   (a) Aperture
   (b) Main part
   (c) Screw
   (d) Washer
   (e) Body of pontoon
   (f) 2 screw-nuts





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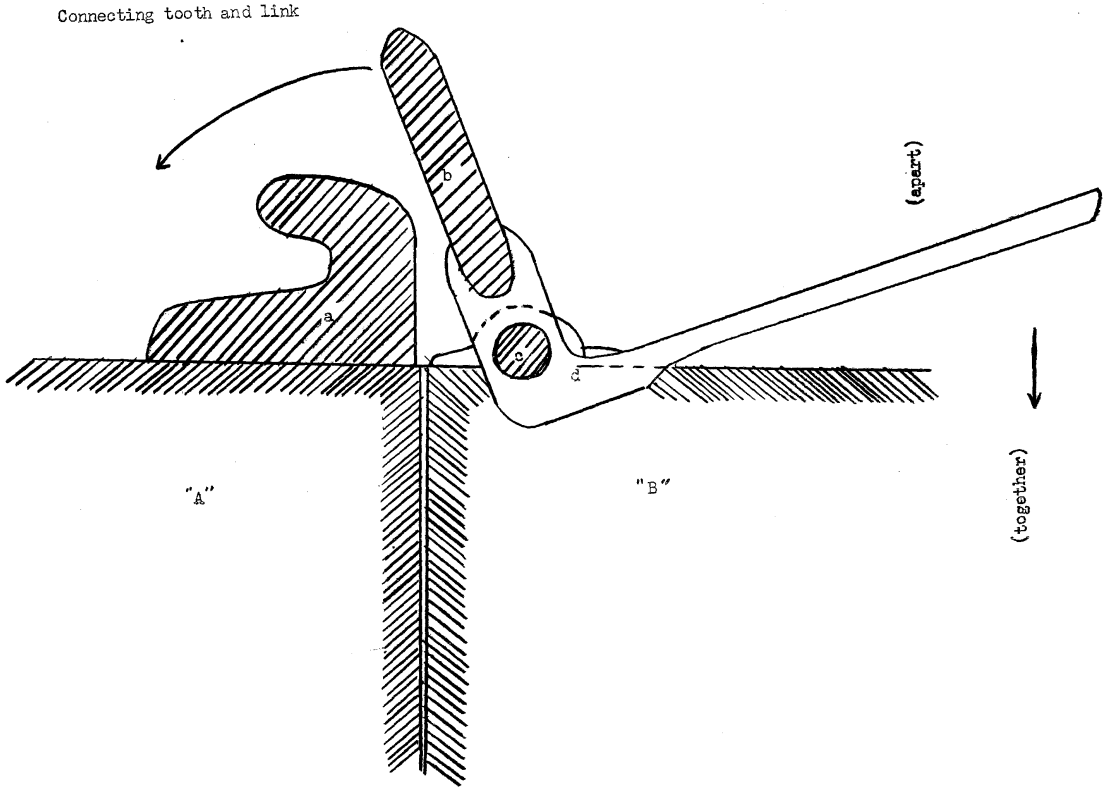
Annex (D)

Connecting tooth and link



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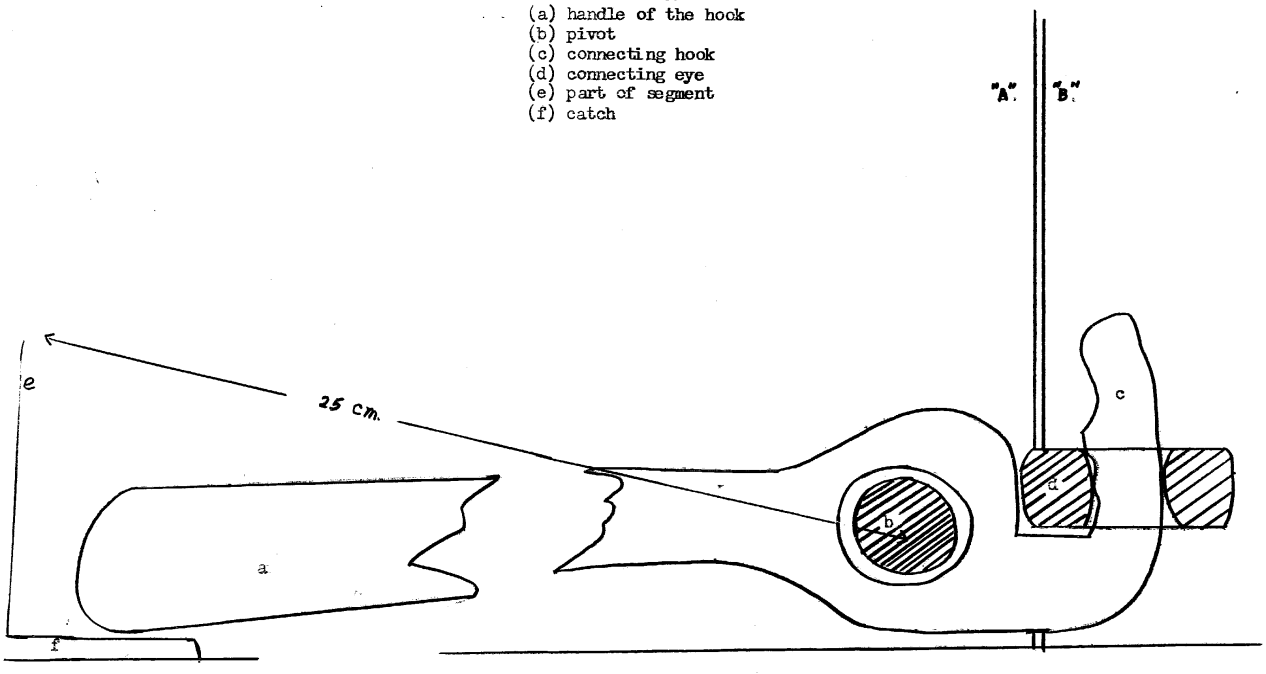
Means of connecting pontoon sections

"A" - front section
"B" - center section
(a) handle of the hook
(b) pivot
(c) connecting hook
(d) connecting eye
(e) part of segment
(f) catch



Annex (F)

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Center Section